HEARTS AROUND HARTZ SMALL TOWN, BIG HEARTS

HEART#8



ARTIST: JAN WEISS

Artist's Inspiration:

I wanted a design that would be bold, stand out from a distance, represent something local and be a design I wouldn't get bored of while painting. Choosing to paint Mount Diablo was an easy one because it's the center of our little world right here in the Diablo Valley and means so much to me. So that part was easy...but then I had to make it interesting...not just the mountain. I like the idea of the sun rising over it but it felt cliché...and because I was doing the mountain in layers of color that would be flat it seems that graphic sun rays coming from behind made sense; and the black and white stood out behind the mountain. But then it was just the sun rays and the Mount Diablo silhouette so then I had to think about a symbol or iconic image that clearly represents our community and golden poppies just seems so right! I chose a painterly style for the flowers which balanced the stark graphic lines of the mountain and sun rays. So it really represented two styles, realism and graphic. Now we have poppies growing from the base, up the mountain reaching for the sun. I like the balanced design.

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